

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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FISH EXPERT TO DIRECT NORTHEAST FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROGRAMS

Restoration of rivers, streams, and lakes throughout the New England and the Middle Atlantic States is a paramount wildlife challenge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has appointed one of its leading fisheries experts--Howard N. Larsen, 47--as the new regional director for the northeast.

"Wildlife managers look at the northeast the same way city managers view New York City" Larsen said. "Every conceivable challenge exists there simply because of the population pressures. Man and wildlife are in more direct conflict there than in any other part of the country, so the lessons we learn about wildlife management in the northeast will apply to other parts of the country in 20 years or so."

Aquatic resources are high on Larsen's priority list. Fish restoration work is underway on virtually every river in the region, and technical groups are in place and working to restore the once abundant northeast natural fishery. Additionally lakes such as Lake Champlain will receive priority attention.

Larsen comes to the job qualified with over 17 years experience in a variety of fisheries assignments. He is an expert on lake and pond dynamics and took part in early restoration of lake trout to Lake Michigan. He participated in investigating the causes of fish die-offs from pollution in Lake Erie.

A native of Waukegan, Illinois, Larsen earned a B.S. in zoology from Northwestern University in 1956 and has done graduate work in fisheries at Auburn University. He started his Fish and Wildlife Service career in 1958 as a management biologist at the Lake Mills National Fish Hatchery in Wisconsin. He worked at other hatcheries in Minnesota and Iowa and then took training in fish disease research before undertaking a long-term study of warm water fish culture in Alabama. He is recognized as a fish environmental expert as a result of five years of concentrated study on all aspects of fish dynamics. He served in the Washington office of the Fish and Wildlife Service as the Chief of the Division of Fish Hatcheries and as Deputy Associate Director for Fish before his appointment as Northeast Regional Director.

He replaces Richard Griffith, who retired earlier this month.